

**CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL STUDY SESSION  
November 21, 2023**

**ATTENDEES:** Council members Arsanto, Tremblay, Smith, Burbank, Green and Anderson.

Also in attendance were Mayor Burkett, City Administrator Brunell, Finance Director Hines, Police Records Clerk Burkett and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**2024 PROPOSED BUDGET:**

Mayor Pro Tem Smith started the meeting reminding Council that they had asked for this Special Study Session to look further into proposed budget and ask questions.

Finance Director Hines gave handouts with an overview of a list of proposed changes from the preliminary budget before Council adopts final budget and a list of capital projects. These changes can affect the end of year balance that can carry over, affecting the 2024 balance and this is why it is important to be discussed. Ms. Hines explained the list of changes and why they needed to be changed.

The Council asked further questions regarding upgrading the playground at the bottom of Elk Heights that was gifted by Elk Heights HOA and then became part of City property and using the money for this playground to a park that gets more use. Mayor Burkett and City Administrator Brunell spoke on options for similar playgrounds that developments build and then it is up to the City to maintain the playgrounds. City Administrator Brunell will have City Attorney Olbrechts look at what the City's obligation is to maintain the Elk Heights playground and what the options are to put the money into a more used playground. City Administrator Brunell discussed park impact fees with Council regarding developments.

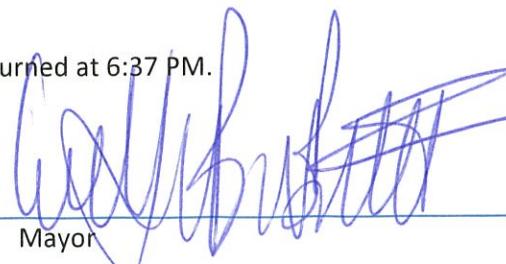
Mayor Burkett gave a handout breaking down what cost increases are with inflation over the last five years such as fuel, insurance, etc. just in case the community asks Council why there were some increases in the budget. This is not just Buckley, but everyone in our state. Inflation can hurt the City just as much as homeowners, etc. Council member Tremblay added that the value of City owned property has gone up and so has our population, and Mayor Pro Tem wanted to commend staff to come up with a budget the Council and the community will accept with the deficit.

Council asked regarding changes to Fire Dept. and Police Dept. equipment reserve. Ms. Hines and Ms. Brunell explained that these departments will not be cut in their budgets and is just a housekeeping item to update a prior ordinance that needs to be updated with current and existing contracts.

Lastly Finance Director Hines gave a quick overview of capital projects and there were no further questions from Council. Final adoption of the budget will be next week at the Council meeting and will have a public hearing.

With nothing further, the Special Study Session was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

  
Courtney S. Brunell  
City Administrator

  
Mayor

Prepared by: Jessica Clark, Deputy City Clerk