

City Council Workshop
July 16, 2012

ATTENDEES: Council members Boyle Barrett, Reed, Irons, Tremblay, Montgomery and Howard. Also in attendance were Mayor Johnson and City Administrator Schmidt

Mayor Pro Tem Boyle Barrett called the workshop to order at 7:01 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Budget Study Session – Possible Closure of the Jail

Council member Boyle Barrett stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss further the budget issues with the possible closure of the jail and all other possible recommendations. Council member Boyle Barrett stated she did not receive any e-mails from anybody for questions that needed to be answered. There is a lot more information for everyone on the table tonight.

Council member Tremblay stated the reason he wanted this is not necessarily to answer questions but to have a round table discussion. This is a major enough issue that we should have a lot of discussion on this. As a Council member he wants to make sure he is representing the citizens. He wants to discuss whether or not the level of service will stay the same. He wants the entire Council to be a part of discussion and wants everyone here to be comfortable about answering questions to the public after any decision is made. There was a very lengthy discussion with all the Council members voicing their concerns and opinions about what direction we should go. City Administrator Schmidt stated to clarify, the six options that were given at the last meeting are not the only options, there are other options, but if we didn't give those we wouldn't be having this discussion tonight. Council member Howard would like to offer a couple of final options, one of the options is the Transportation Benefit District; he is more in favor of the sales tax increase but that does require approval of the voters where the vehicle fees do not. He feels this is something that the Council should pursue right now. The other option is the gas utility; there is an overwhelming response in favor of selling the gas system so he feels we should move on that immediately as well. We would have to do transfers from capital reserve funds to balance until the gas system sells to replenish the capital reserve funds and also looking at maximizing filling the jail beds in the jail. There was a lengthy question and answer period with Chief Predmore and Chief Arsanto about the dispatch center. Council member Tremblay asked if the Finance Chair was ready to move forward now. Council member Boyle Barrett stated no because they have not discussed all the options. She would like to hear from everyone regarding the Municipal Court and Community Services. There were questions asked to Court Administrator Jessica Cash about the court and how the revenues are being generated. There were questions asked to Recreation Services Director Ellen Boyd about how many seniors and youth are participating in activities. There was discussion about combining some of the city

buildings; this would be a long term plan and discussion for a later date. There was a question about reduction on the police force. Chief Arsanto stated he could not afford to lose any police officers. Council member Howard supports the Mayor's recommendation to impose the vehicle tab fee as soon as possible. There was a consensus to move forward with the Transportation Benefit District and this will be brought to the next Council meeting; and exploring more in depth the sale of the gas system.

With nothing further the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.



Mayor



City Administrator