

§STATE OF TEXAS
§CALDWELL COUNTY
§CITY OF LULING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LULING, MET IN BUDGET WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY HALL, 509 EAST CROCKETT STREET.

The following members were present:

Mike Hendricks	Mayor
Jackie Campbell	Council Member
John Wells	Council Member
Wayne Tresner	Council Member
James Nickells	Council Member
C. J. Watts	Council Member

Staff Members present:

Mark Mayo	City Manager
Martha Velasquez	City Secretary
James Rougeou	Finance Director
William Sala	Police Chief
Ryan DeCamp	Code Enforcement

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Mayor Hendricks called the meeting to order.

2. Budget Work Session on the 2020/2021 Proposed Budget.

Sonny Rougeou, Finance Director, stated that he gave all the department heads their budget worksheets and they took them and worked on them.

Sonny stated that we had started with a \$27,444 deficit in the General Fund and have gotten additional request that are not set in granite but he would like for the Council to see what the Council thought about it. Sonny Rougeou stated that in the Utility Fund we had an additional \$23,697 request to bring our projected deficit to \$269.65. Sonny stated that they made good points in their needs for these items.

There is a Capital Outlay request sheet for you to look at of some of the items that are being requested. Liz Mundine stated that the City manager has stated that the City Council I-PADs need to be replaced and the ones we have will be utilized in other areas.

Chief Sala has requested a Tahoe and he has requested that one of his positions that was going to be available to fill, to remain frozen so that the Tahoe can be purchased as well as a promotion for one of the detectives.

John Westbrook, Mapping System Operator, is requesting a software renewal which is \$7,300.

Pablo Reyes in Parks has requested a generator to keep on the truck when he is away from an electrical outlet

Water and wastewater has asked for \$30,000 on a Hole Hog along with a generator so this may be additional expense.

These are some of the things that are included in the budget.

In the middle of the page are some things that are not included in the budget but are being requested from other departments, and we wanted to bring to the Council so that you all can look and decide if they are needed or not.

Liz stated that Ross Barrington is looking at a half ton pickup, and they got a probably not going to be able to purchase the service pickup.

Ross is in the street department and we are looking at pulling him out and create a vehicle maintenance department and adding a helper to him which is Marcos Flores. Mr. Flores has been helping Ross out at this time. We may need to purchase some additional tools.

With moving Marcos over to help with vehicle maintenance the Parks Department will lose a position.

The sweeper truck is equipment that is needed. The Council agrees that we need another street sweeper because the one we have now is a parking lot sweeper. We need a steer skid because the one we have right now is always in the shop.

Council Member James Nickells stated that maybe we need to look at getting a bond to pay for all this equipment.

Liz Mundine stated that this is the second year that a scorpion trailer is being requested; Texas DOT is coming down on us about getting this trailer. It is needed for safety, the lights and arrows to keep our employees safe.

Zedler Mill is requesting some new sofas, the ones we have are showing their age.

Water and Wastewater is requesting a locator. They are looking for a backup well pump for Ottine. They need a compressor and Hole Hog, a 15 yd. sludge box tipping stand. (They are looking at building one). The Waste Water Department is requesting a 16 inch red value tool. (They are looking at putting a stair and platform to help with flooding at the Riverbend lift station. Bill is also looking at generators for the South and North plant.

Liz Mundine stated that they are waiting on some quotes from different items that they need at the Zedler like lighting, projector and sound system. Also they are looking at fixing the counter at the Zedler Pavilion.

Municipal Court is requesting certification pay for one of her clerks, according to her levels of certification. Sonny stated that at the time we have step pay; you get a bump in pay.

Council Member Jackie Campbell asked about the Library and their pay, she asked if Mona had spoken to them or to Mark about an increase in pay, and they stated that Mona had not mentioned anything to them.

Liz Mundine stated that they have included different scenarios about cost of living raises for the Council to review. The Council Members discussed the different scenarios.

Liz stated that if anyone had any questions to let them know and they would try to answer their questions.

Ryan DeCamp has requested that his part-time employee become full time. He stated that she is doing a great job and that it helps him so that he can work on other areas.

Council Member James Nickells stated that he wanted to clarify that the \$500,000 expenditure was for the 2 ambulances grant.

Council Member CJ Watts asked about PLAYFIRST money and what the City had done with the money. She was informed that the City of Luling is not part of PLAYFIRST and that they (PLAYFIRST) had the money.

Council Member James Nickells asked what the deficit was going to look like at the end of the year, and Sonny Rougeou stated that he hasn't gotten to that yet but he has to add the taxes and that he would let them know.

Council Member James Nickells said that tonight we can say this is what we want but we know that you are going to look at it and let us know what we can do. He stated that he would like to see about a raise increase for the employees.

There was a discussion about the city paying for the insurance on employees and family and how it could be coming to and end soon. It may come to the point where no raises and city pay the insurance or we give raises and get the employees to pay insurance. It may get to this point sooner than we think.

There was discussion about some of the things on the list like cutting down on the list. Council Member James Nickells stated that he has respect for the job that Sonny and Liz do on going through the budget.

Next budget workshop scheduled for Monday, February 24th at 5:00 pm.

We spoke about moving the March Council Meeting because two Council Members will be out on the second week of March, so we will put that on the February agenda.

Mayor Hendricks announced that Jessica Tucker had passed her test in Frisco towards her certification.

3. Adjourned.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:_____

Mike Hendricks, Mayor
City of Luling

Martha C. Velasquez
City Secretary