

City of Muskegon
City Commission Worksession
June 9, 2014
City Commission Chambers
5:30 PM

MINUTES

2014-42

Present: Commissioners Hood, Rinsema-Sybenga, Gawron, Johnson, German, Turnquist, and Spataro.

Absent: None.

Farmers Market Permit to a Qualified Small Wine Maker.

A new state law now allows wine sampling at Farmers Markets. A maximum of three samples may be given. Samples can be no more than 2 ounces.

Motion by Vice Mayor Spataro, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to authorize staff to adopt regulations to allow Farmers Market vendors to have wine tasting in conformity with the new state law.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gawron, Hood, Spataro, German, Rinsema-Sybenga, Turnquist, and Johnson.

Nays: None.

MOTION PASSES

2014-15 Budget.

The third quarter budget re-forecast was given.

Proposed general fund expenditures are \$24,733,617 and are up from the 2013-14 original budget of \$23,775,700. Revenues for 2014-15 are estimated at \$24,733,981 and are up from the 2013-14 original budget of \$23,183,205. This essentially creates a break even budget for 2014-15.

The budget includes the elimination of two code compliance inspector positions and one customer service representative I position (environmental services) with the privatization of environmental and rental code compliance services. Three additional firefighter positions were added with the reduction in contractual services for part-time firefighters.

The budget does include a .5 mill increase for refuse and a .5 mill increase to the overall millage rate and represents a balanced budget.

The budget reflects the continued contractual relationship with SafeBuilt to provide trade inspection services and rental inspection services. We will continue to contract recreation services with outside agencies at the same funding level.

Due to relatively low ridership, staff is proposing the elimination of senior transit services.

Refuse collection costs are anticipated to increase by 1%, pursuant to the contract with Republic.

Over \$499,000 has been budgeted for capital improvements that include playground equipment, radios for the fire department, GIS mapping of grave sites, replacement of windows at city hall, force continuum equipment for police department, ADA compliance at various locations, roof repair or replacement at fire station #4, and Veteran's Park upgrades.

A proposed millage increase was discussed. Staff was directed to finalize a proposal and take it to the June 24, 2014 Commission meeting for consideration of the November ballot.

Commissioners asked several questions regarding various line items within the proposed budget. The City Manager, Finance Director, and staff answered questions.

The public hearing on the budget will take place at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 Commission meeting.

Any Other Business.

After a discussion with city staff, the City Manager recommended the Commission consider placing a question on the November ballot to remove the “Rule of 1” from the Civil Service rules. The “Rule of 1” currently allows an employee with the highest score to promote into a position. Removing the rule would allow supervisors to select any employee with a passing score for promotion.

This item has been placed on the June 24, 2014 agenda for consideration by the City Commission.

Adjournment.

Motion by Commissioner Hood, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

MOTION PASSES

**Ann Marie Cummings, MMC
City Clerk**