

Nowthen City Council
August 29, 2022
Budget Work Session III

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pilon called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm

Present: Council Members Greenberg, Alders, and Rainville.

Also in attendance: Administrator Lehner, Deputy Clerk Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief Lawrence, and Public Works Supervisor Joe Glaze

2. The purpose of this work session is to finalize a preliminary budget and understand the needs of the city as it pertains to the 2023 Budget.

3. Public Works

Discussion regarding Dust Control – where has it been coded in the past? Joe was told the previous administration had been coding it to Capital Improvement Fund. Lori Y. disagrees. The Engineering costs should be coded to Capital Improvement Fund. Maintenance items such as dust control, patching, etc. should not be coded to the Capital Improvement Fund.

The gravel plan is do 5 miles each year. Each road every 3-5 years. The city does dust control on approximately 11 miles each year. Gravel is approximately \$30K a year and Dust Control is \$46,700.

Budget to be adjusted to have \$30,000 in 100-43110-440 for Gravel, Rock, Etc. and \$46,700 in 100-43110-450 for Calcium Chloride for dust control.

Council Member Rainville would like the City of Nowthen to try to do the dust control along with the City of St. Francis to see if the two cities together can receive better pricing.

Does Public Works need additional staff? City Administrator Lehner will be working on that question. How do we staff the city correctly?

4. Administration and Recycling

Discussion regarding staffing needed in the city office.

One more office staff is needed to achieve the best services to the city residents.

Recycling Center needs an attendant – the city is actively looking for this employee.

Currently without the grant, the recycling center operates at a loss. Council Member Rainville does not want the grant included in the budget as it is not guaranteed to be received. If the city receives the grant, the recycling center almost breaks even with 50% of Adrienne's time coded to it along with a small percentage of public works employees and a 32 hour a week attendant.

Discussion could we hire an attendant to help out public works as well?

No other changes to this part of the preliminary budget, once submitted to the state in September, it can be re-arranged or go down, the levy will not be able to be increased.

5. Fire Department

The bond still has money available for the fire department to spend. Approximately \$45,000 to be used on equipment with an expected lifetime of 10 years +.

There is also money available in the Equipment Replacement plan if needed. Larger purchases are easier to track and report for the bond.

The fire department would like to have a different Medical Director other than Allina. They are looking at private services to help with additional training and direction. It would help service our residents medically until the ambulance arrives. There are times the patient is waiting for an ambulance in our area longer than 30+ minutes. Ambulance response times are just too long. If the firefighters are trained to treat more types of patients, they will be able to save lives.

Discussions regarding ISO – (insurance rates for residents) – due to fire fighter response times and equipment available. Assistant Fire Chief Lawrence stated even if the ISO is a little higher – usually means less crime – therefore it doesn't affect homeowners' insurance all that much.

6. General Discussion

Why is work compensation insurance so high? Due to 1 claim in 2021.

The county assessor will be submitting a formal proposal to the City for assessing properties in Nowthen.

What exactly is the prosecuting attorney doing for the city and what is actually being prosecuted for the \$20,000 + in legal fees so far this year?

The budget was based on numbers through June 2022 – Lori and Natalie can run numbers in September and re-calculate projections.

Lori will provide a Debt Levy Cancellation for 2019A for 1 year for the bond.

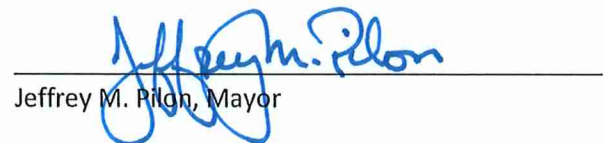
The city of Nowthen will prepare for a levy increase of 6.94% for 2023 budget, which is very good compared to cities around Nowthen having double digit increases do to inflation of everything.

The work session adjourned at 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Lehner, City Administrator



Jeffrey M. Pilon, Mayor