

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 25, 2019

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Michael Swanton, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Amy Clearwater, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Marc Lessard

Laura Seaver was excused.

The Committee, and all who were present, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion: School Department FY20 Budget Presentation:

With no need for a presentation from the Superintendent of Schools, Jeremy Ray, the Committee made the following motion:

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to send the School Department FY20 proposed budget to the City Council for consideration and approval.

Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion: FY20 City Government Budget – Work to Date:

There are a number of policy issues that this Committee has been asked to consider and make recommendations on. The discussion at this meeting was broken down as follows:

1. *Increase in State Revenue Sharing:* City Manager, Jim Bennett explained that there is no vote necessary on this item; and it's being presented for information only. Because the State Revenue Sharing is still yet to be finalized in the State Budget, Jim suggests that the Committee proceed with adoption of the City budget without consideration for what the projected increase might be in Revenue Sharing. That projected additional Revenue Sharing is estimated to be \$350,000 in FY20.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor McCurry to specify in the FY20 Budget that the projected additional State Revenue Sharing of \$350,000, if received, be used to increase the contingency account.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors Ready, Belanger, Clearwater and Swanton opposed.

Councilors McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Lessard in favor.

Mayor Casavant voted in favor to break the tie.

Motion carries.

2. *Increase in Annual CIP Funding:*

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to decrease the CIP Funding by \$200,000.

Vote: 5/3; Councilors Lessard, McCurry, Quattrone, St. Cyr and Swanton in favor.

Councilors Ready, Belanger and Clearwater opposed.

Motion carries.

3. *Recycling and Solid Waste Issues:*

There is currently an additional \$150,000 included in the FY20 budget to deal with on-going contamination problems in the recycling. Staff has made recommendations that would result in a savings of \$190,860. There are three suggestions that have been made to eliminate the contamination fee:

- a) Eliminate the 6 or more unit “grandfathered” buildings from the recycling program. *This has been done.*
- b) Ban the use of single-use plastic bags. *This has been done.*
- c) Eliminate the 3 to 5 unit buildings from the recycling program

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to eliminate both solid waste and recycling pick up for all the 3 to 5 unit, non-owner occupied buildings.

Vote: 2/6; Councilors Belanger and Clearwater in favor.

Councilors Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Ready and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

The Committee made no changes to the proposed budget amounts.

4. *Staffing Requests/Recommendations:*

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to remove all the new positions proposed in the FY20 budget.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor Clearwater to move the question.

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on motion: 3/5; Councilors McCurry, Lessard and Quattrone in favor.

Councilors Swanton, St. Cyr, Clearwater, Belanger and Ready opposed.

Motion fails.

The Committee agreed to consider each position separately:

- **Finance Clerk** (40 hour week), replacing Comptroller (32 hours) – no change
- **Management Analyst**; removal of HR Director position – no change
- **Firefighters** (2 additional positions) -

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to remove the two additional firefighter positions from the FY20 budget.

Councilor Lessard called a point of order: he cautioned that the current discussion is heading in a dangerous direction considering the Fire Department Labor Contract has not yet been settled.

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor McCurry to move into Executive Session.

Vote: 3/5; Councilors Lessard, McCurry and Quattrone in favor.

Councilors Swanton, St. Cyr, Clearwater, Belanger and Ready opposed.

Motion fails.

Councilor Belanger called a point of order: expressed that the current discussion is unfair due to the fact that the City is still in negotiations with the Fire Department Bargaining Unit.

Mayor Casavant pointed out that the request for additional firefighters is not a contractual issue; but rather should be looked at as a needs-based issue. Councilor Lessard pressed the issue stating that these requested additional firefighters would fall within the Fire Dept. Labor Contract, and in order for him to make a truly informed decision, he needs to know what that contract will entail.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to amend the proposed budget request to take the budgeted funds (\$90,062) and include these funds in the contingency account so that this discussion can happen once a contract is in place.

Motion by Councilor Swanton, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move the question.

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on moving the funds to contingency: 4/4; Councilors McCurry, Lessard, Quattrone and Swanton in favor.

Councilors St. Cyr, Clearwater, Belanger and Ready opposed.

Mayor Casavant voted in opposition to break the tie.

Motion fails.

Motion by Councilor Swanton, seconded by Councilor McCurry to move the question.

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on motion to eliminate the two firefighter positions: 5/3; Councilors Ready, Belanger and Clearwater opposed.

Councilors Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

➤ ***Additional parking enforcement hours:*** no change

The Chair took a recess at 8:07 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:16 p.m.

➤ ***Additional Recreation hours*** – no change

➤ ***Additional staff hours (from 32 to 40 hours) in Planning & Development Office:*** no change

➤ ***Funding for part-time Polygraph position at Police Dept:***

Motion by Councilor Swanton, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to remove this position from the FY20 budget.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors Ready, Belanger, St. Cyr and McCurry opposed.

Councilors Swanton, Quattrone, Clearwater and Lessard in favor.

Mayor Casavant voted in opposition to break the tie.

Motion fails.

5. *Municipal Services Funding:*

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to fund all the Municipal Service requests that were funded in the FY19 budget, at the same rate as the FY19 budget; with the exception of the ShuttleBus, which shall be funded at the FY20 budget request. Be it further moved that the FY20 budget request for Holiday Lighting also be funded at the FY20 budget request.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Ready to amend the original motion to remove all funding for the Downtown Development Commission.

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Councilor Clearwater, seconded by Councilor Belanger to amend the original motion by removing the FY20 budget request for the McArthur Library, and consider this item separately.

Vote: 3/5; Councilors Clearwater, Belanger and Ready in favor.

Councilors Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

Vote on original motion for Municipal Services Funding: 6/2; Councilors Clearwater and Belanger opposed.

Councilors Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Ready and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Ready, seconded by Councilor McCurry to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 8:35 p.m.