

**Troy City Budget Meeting
Council Chambers
August 25, 2010
6:30 pm**

The meeting came to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Mayor Don Banning, Council: Phil Fisher, Fran McCully, Gary Rose, Loretta Jones and City Clerk Sandra Johnson.

GUESTS: Robert McLeod, Josie Fisher, and Larry Baker

Mayor Banning lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW BUDGET FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING:

City Clerk Sandra Johnson updated council on the following changes as requested from the last budget meeting.

Codification is no longer under miscellaneous; it is now labeled object 593, specifically for codification. Each fund now shows an amount for codification, for a total of \$10,000 to be budgeted.

The pressure washer is now indicated in all three enterprise funds for a total of \$6,500.

There was revenue for the energy efficiency grant budgeted twice. It was in General Fund and HB645. It is no longer in general fund, and the grant amount is under the fund for HB 645 . Discussion followed. The City's matching \$5,000 contribution is in general fund.

Gary Rose asked about an upgrade on radios: Officer McLeod explained that they will be switching to narrow band. It is a digital channel. Basic information is still over the scanners, but they will have an inscription option for some circumstances.

Phil Fisher mentioned that the general fund revenue budget dropped from 506,000 from the last meeting to 458,000. That's more than the 40,599. There difference of revenue is the \$47,600. It was explained that the difference is the HB645 grant amount and the city's \$5,000. Match plus there was a \$2,000 contingency that is no longer budgeted.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS:

1. *Judicial Clerk:* Loretta Jones objected to the clerk being hired before the position was approved. For the next budget make sure that the council is apprised before any new hire. Phil Fisher asked where it shows that the Mayor can hire. Don Banning stated it is in the personnel policy and had also conferred with Dan Clark of the Local Government Center. Phil Fisher stated that it doesn't say that in the personnel policy. Banning stated; the request was made from the department head of the judicial department. I approved his request to hire. Gary Rose stated; it is up to us to pass the budget with the wages in it. Rose added; up to that point, the council had no knowledge of it. Phil Fisher stated; we were aware he wanted it, but weren't not aware the process was in motion. Fran McCully asked; didn't this have to be budgeted before the hire. The city clerk stated it has been in the budget since the Judge's request in June, and that the council was at that meeting when it was discussed.. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to change the process for the next year, and move on to the next item. Gary Rose stated that the Council needs a meeting to hash out with the Mayor to arrive at a solution. Phil Fisher stated that he will not approve the amount in the budget for the judicial clerk. Mayor Banning stated; we are trying to comply with your desire to be informed by emailing you and letting council know. The mayor is trying to coordinate a meeting with MMIA and the Local Government Center for council to attend. Phil Fisher asked; why did you not ask us if we would like to have a meeting with them. Banning stated because I am the executive branch and setting up a meeting. Fran McCully stated there has to be a general attitude change; why set up a meeting until there is some attitude change and consensus; I don't see any purpose for a meeting. Banning stated; the purpose for the meeting with MMIA and Local Government Center is for everyone to sit down and learn together. Phil Fisher stated; we need to have an agreement before we finalize the budget for the judicial department. The clerk asked what he wanted in the agreement. He again stated that he is not going to approve funds for a judicial clerk. Gary Rose asked; what will you do Mayor about this? Mayor Banning answered; I

assumed by what you said and gave no mention of not doing this, that it was okay to move forward. Fran McCully asked; was the judge aware of the process? Banning answered; yes. Gary Rose asked; did he seem concerned that we weren't advised? Mayor Banning answered; no. Gary Rose asked; do you have any confidence or respect for the council? Mayor Banning answered; yes I do, and added; I would like to have you come into the office to talk.

2. *Computer and internet at the shop:* This item does not appear in the budget at this time. The Mayor explained that if a new phone line would be installed, it will be about \$125 per month. Loretta Jones stated that the productivity cost of interrupting the city hall staff to use their computers may be more than the cost of giving them their own. But ,after seeing the expense of installing new lines, she isn't sure. The phone lines are maxed out and would need to upgrade the entire phone system. Fran McCully would like to keep this in mind for another year. It might not be cost prohibitive.
3. *Animal control:* Fran McCully asked what the proposal is for the budget to take care of the animal control situation we have. Robert McLeod answered; we looked it up and the City is responsible for giving the citizens of the city the service of animal control. Fran McCully stated her understanding that the animals can still be taken to Libby. McLeod replied; the last letter he received from the County said that until there is an agreement or contract, they will still accept our animals at the pound to euthanize only. Discussion followed. Fran McCully suggested contacting the local dog groomer to see if there could be an agreement between her and the city. McLeod stated; it is important to have someone in the animal control vehicle. We could use the County for impounds and have a contract. McLeod added; I can contact them and find out what they would charge. Gary Rose asked; what would they have for hours and would they transport. McLeod answered; yes they would transport. Animal control officers have their own ticket book and would be responsible for the complaints. More discussion on what could be done followed. McLeod will follow up with County. The pet groomer's business may still be an option for holding.
4. *Truck for the Power department:* Phil Fisher stated that if the power department replaces the pickup truck; keep the old one for traveling for long trips. Fran McCully stated her feelings that it is more beneficial to the city to keep the truck. Robert McLeod suggested selling it and purchasing a small vehicle for long travel. Phil Fisher added; basically it is less money to use the truck rather than pay mileage, especially if people ride together.
5. *Codification:* Sandra Johnson asked if their questions got answered in the beginning of the meeting. Council had no more questions.
6. *Pressure washer:* addressed earlier in the meeting. Council had no more questions.
7. *Request for employees coded 110:* It was explained that all employees' regular hours are coded as 110. Percentages for each position was given for each fund.
8. *Training issues:* Mayor Banning explained that the power company is planning on sending one employee to meter school in Spokane. The public works departments have to keep up mandatory certifications by attending training. Fran McCully stated that the power manager's information states that he has no mandatory training although he feels it is important to keep up with safety and important to refresh and stay current. McCully stated her feelings that it is minimal so she sees no problem with the power company's training. Phil Fisher asked why the deputy clerk would need to go to training. In order for a deputy clerk to assist with some of the duties of city clerk, that person would also need to be certified. Phil Fisher asked if they need to go every year to stay certified. Once certified, the position would need points to re-certify, and so many points are needed for certification which are given through the classes. There is an approved state curriculum; it is like attending college. Gary Rose asked if it is a State requirement to be certified. Yes. Discussion followed, and questions on the Mayor's Academy.. It was explained that the Mayor's Academy may be mandatory in the future. Phil Fisher asked Banning if he already attended the MLCT. Mayor Banning answered; no, it was the Mayors Academy for newly elected mayor and councils. The clerk explained to council that she is on the legislative committee and the education committee for MMCTFOA. She asked council that if they don't approve the training, to please let her have the time to attend even if she has to pay to travel herself in order to apprise them properly of her resignation. Fran McCully asked if she budgeted for two for MLCT. There are more than two people budgeted for MLCT. Mayor Banning added; six, it is budgeted for any elected person and the city attorney as well. It was also explained that the training for administering grants with the

various funding agencies was very important. Gary Rose and Fran McCully asked that the training be prioritized by the importance. The clerk stated that the most important, is to have the people that run the city, which is the mayor and the council, but they need to look to those at city hall to also help with information. Discussion followed. It is council's consensus to approve the above explained training for the clerk, council and mayor. Mayor Banning asked the clerk about the legislative committee. There are only two on the committee, and advised that there are important issues this year. One being healthcare and the liability of the city for retirees. Bob McLeod explained his training budget. Discussion followed regarding riding together to training to save on mileage. Discussion followed regarding the city attorney training. Council was advised that the Preliminary Budget Hearing would be advertised for September 8, 2010. That leaves the next council meeting for approval of the resolutions for wages, mills, and appropriations.

9. *Overtime:* Loretta Jones asked if the overtime budgeted for administration is only for City Hall administration. No, it is for all administrative department's overtime wages.

Phil Fisher had questions regarding health insurance for employer contributions. There was 36,900 budgeted last year, but only used 79% of it, and why it is more this year. He was advised there is an additional person this year that was put into General Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Guest Josie Fisher stated; it is embarrassing to be on the front page of the newspaper. I really hope you guys have a meeting before the next city council meeting to work out your problems. It not just one person that looks bad, but the whole town looks bad. Hopefully you as the Mayor can get that set up so we don't end up on the front page again.

Robert McLeod stated; when it's a small town, it's difficult not to take things personal. McLeod gave an example of what someone had said to him. Gary Rose stated there are procedures that need to be followed and you happened to be a victim of that.

Phil Fisher read a prepared statement: we the following City Council members; Loretta Jones, Fran McCully, Gary Rose, and Phil Fisher request the calling of a special meeting to start at 6:00 p.m. Friday the 27th of August 2010. The purpose of the meeting being, to address the issue of paying the claims for the month of August.

Discussion between Gary Rose and Mayor Banning regarding communication followed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Donald C. Banning, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sandra Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer