

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AND BUDGET WORK SESSION  
JUNE 23, 2015  
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station meeting room located at 50 Green Street. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton  
Senior Alderman Renny Perry  
Alderman Jeffrey Fritz  
Alderman Lynn Donnelly  
Alderman Michael Daniels  
Alderman Lowell Bertrand

Alderman Joseph Klopfenstein  
City Manager Mel Hawley  
City Clerk Joan Devine  
Reporter Andy Kirkaldy  
Jim Moulton, ACTR (6:00 p.m.)

BUDGET WORK SESSION: Manager Hawley reported his preliminary budget was distributed in May and a revised budget was included in the agenda packet. The revised budget will result in a municipal tax rate of 75 cents as requested by the City Council. Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for State-owned buildings in the City and the so-called "hold harmless funds" to cover lost municipal taxes for properties in the State current use program are expected to increase. He also announced the line items that he reduced in administration, police, public works and general appropriations. The cost of the Main Street paving project currently underway will be due and bills paid in July for June expenses will be reflected in the current fiscal year. Manager Hawley estimated that we will likely end the year with over \$100,000 for a fund balance of which \$87,000 can be used to keep the tax rate at 75 cents. He said some additional funds will be needed for wage adjustments. Delinquent property taxes collected within the first 60 days of the new fiscal year can be counted as current year revenue. However, last year the delinquent taxes 60 days into the year were down to \$22,000. Right now we are at approximately \$67,000.; it is unknown how much of that we will collect. If delinquent taxes 60 days into the year are higher than \$22,000, the fund balance is negatively affected.

Senior Alderman Perry questioned the \$30,000 reduction in police revenue especially after acquiring a vehicle and equipment to do commercial vehicle enforcement as it relates to overweight vehicles. He stated he would like to see it increased to at least \$65,000. If our revenues from the State appear down, he advised, we need to check on it because errors have been detected in the past. He also expressed concern with no police cruiser replacement program. Manager Hawley advised that when he drafted the budget, recent monthly police fine revenue was only about \$2,700. The check that arrived in June was about \$4,500 so increasing that revenue line item to \$65,000 is now justified. Manager Hawley advised Field Automotive has checked all their vehicles and we should be fine for another year. Alderman Klopfenstein felt our City website was not friendly and is in need of an update. The majority agreed and that line item was changed from \$200 to \$3,000. He also inquired on the status of the City Hall renovations. Manager Hawley advised the project will happen but it will need to be funded through the Water Tower Fund. Alderman Donnelly questioned if there was another recent overflow at the Macdonough Drive pump station, and if so, what is in the budget to address this. Manager Hawley reminded everyone that we are working under a 1272 Order and have always been required to notify the State immediately if we have a spill. The Agency of Natural Resources will tell us what we need to do that will be based on monitoring. He advised we could have a three million dollar problem on our hands that is going to require a bond. The sewer line replacement budget was increased to \$50,000 this year, he advised.

City Manager Hawley advised both the recycling and fire protection contracts have increased this year and will affect the Towns of Panton, Waltham, Ferrisburgh and Addison. He wants to notify them as soon as possible.

RECESS: At 5:55 p.m. Mayor Benton recessed the meeting until 6 p.m.

ADDISON COUNTY TRANSIT RESOURCES (ACTR): Jim Moulton, Executive Director of ACTR, advised he was here to share the progress they have made providing energy efficient travel in the communities. Their latest program, Guaranteed Ride Home, offers peace of mind to commuters that they will not be left stranded. He advised they are looking for an increase in the local match from the City this year from \$7,302 to \$8,160; an increase of \$858. This is based on their "fair share" formula, he stated. It is their goal to not increase the local match each year but to look at it every two or three years. Senior Alderman Perry, who also sits on the ACTR Board, advised they have seen a continuous increase in ridership. The weekend commuter bus that goes to Burlington has also become quite popular, he advised. City Manager Hawley expressed appreciation to ACTR for their role in constructing the new bus shelter at the corner of Green Street and Main Street. He also reported that eliminating the bus stop in front of the Post Office and moving the stop at the south end of Park Street to in front of City Hall, where seating and shelter is available, is working great.

MINUTES: Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015 after typographical corrections have been made. The motion was seconded by Senior Alderman Renny Perry with all voting in favor.

WARRANT: The Warrant totaling \$45,684.68 was circulated for review and signatures of approval.

VERGENNES REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: Mayor Benton recommended the appointment of Hillary Devine, co-owner of Shear Cuts, to the committee as the business/commercial property owner representative. He pointed out that Shear Cuts has two loans from the fund and therefore Hillary is familiar with the program. Senior Alderman Renny Perry moved the appointment, seconded by Alderman Daniels, with all voting in favor.

ACTR APPOINTMENT: Senior Alderman Renny Perry moved to reappoint Diane Lanpher as the City's representative to ACTR Board of Directors. Alderman Daniels seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) APPOINTMENT: Manager Hawley advised Greg Edwards, who has served as our TAC representative, no longer lives in Vergennes so a vacancy exists. Mayor Benton advised he will ask members on the Transportation Task Force if there is any interest there.

WATERSHED RESERVE FUND POLICY: City Manager Hawley advised he would like to amend the Watershed Reserve Fund Policy as it relates to earnings going to the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund. He suggested earnings from the Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund remain in that fund until such time they are allocated by the City Council and eliminate the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund. Senior Alderman Renny Perry made a motion to move the current balance of funds (\$4,539.34) in the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund to the Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund. Alderman Bertrand seconded the motion with all voting in favor. City Manager Hawley will bring a revised Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund Policy to the next meeting for review.

L.F. BENTON COMPANY LAND PURCHASE: Manager Hawley reported it has been determined that Jackman Fuels, Inc. is the owner of the recently discovered lot adjacent to the L.F. Benton Company

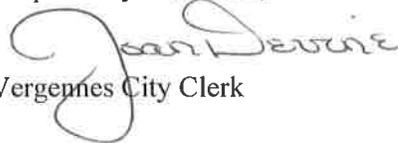
property. He advised he has spoken with Tom Jackman who states that he and his wife will sign off on this lot to the City with no compensation. City Attorney James Ouimette has been requested to prepare a quit claim deed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:35 p.m. Alderman Bertrand moved for an executive session to evaluate and set compensation for the City Manager and the City Clerk/Treasurer. Senior Alderman Perry seconded the motion with all voting in favor. At 6:56 p.m. Senior Alderman Perry moved to adjourn the executive session, seconded by Alderman Bertrand, with all voting in favor.

REGULAR SESSION: Senior Alderman Renny Perry moved the City Manager's and the City Clerk/Treasurer's respective annual salaries increase by 2.5 percent effective July 1, 2015. Lowell Bertrand seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7 p.m. Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Senior Alderman Perry, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Vergennes City Clerk