

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 30, 2015  
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station meeting room located at 50 Green Street. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	City Manager Mel Hawley
Senior Alderman Renny Perry	City Clerk Joan Devine
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	Reporter Andy Kirkaldy
Alderman Lynn Donnelly	
Alderman Michael Daniels	
Alderman Jeffrey Fritz	
Alderman Joseph Klopfenstein	

MINUTES: Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mike Daniels. Senior Alderman Perry advised when he was discussing raising police revenues he did not mention a dollar amount. Manager Hawley advised he was the one who said he would be comfortable with increasing that line item to \$65,000. A vote on the motion with that correction showed all voting in favor.

WARRANT: The final Warrant for this fiscal year totaling \$119,300.45 was circulated for review and signatures of approval.

WATERSHED RESERVE FUND POLICY: City Manager Hawley presented proposed amendments to the Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund Policy as discussed at the last meeting. He reported he has also written the check that closed out the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund as approved at the last meeting and those funds are now back in the Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund. During discussion it was agreed that a clause be added that provides that funds can be used for capital improvements as well as development and maintenance of public parks and other City-owned recreation facilities. Senior Alderman Renny Perry moved to adopt the Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund Policy as amended, seconded by Alderman Bertrand, with all voting in favor.

ADOPTION OF FY2016 BUDGET: Manager Hawley highlighted areas changed since the last meeting to get the municipal tax rate down to 75 cents. Using \$103,000 of the fund balance (estimated at \$147,000) is necessary, he advised. Alderman Donnelly advised she would like to see Police Chief Merkel's and Public Works Supervisor Jim Larrow's wages increased to \$65,000 each to recognize what they give to the City. Senior Alderman Renny Perry felt the City Council should not step over the City Manager's authority as it is manager that sets those wages by law. Senior Alderman Perry moved to adopt a general fund budget of \$2,121,912. Lowell Bertrand seconded the motion. During discussion, Alderman Donnelly moved to amend the motion by adding \$4,000 to the budget for wages. There was no second on the proposed amendment. A vote on the original motion showed all voting in favor.

Senior Alderman Perry moved to adopt a Fire Department budget of \$141,191, a Recycling Program budget of 69,000, a Sewer Department budget of \$676,100, and a Swimming Pool budget of \$53,700. Alderman Lowell Bertrand seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

Alderman Lynn Donnelly departed at 6:30 p.m.

Alderman Joe Klopfenstein moved to adopt a City tax rate of 75 cents, seconded by Alderman Mike Daniels, with all voting in favor. Manager Hawley reported the local tax rate is based on the education taxes not billed for the voter-approved exemptions for the Vergennes Masonic Association property and \$30,000 of the \$40,000 reduction in appraisal for qualified veterans. He estimated this year's local rate to be approximately \$.0030. He said the homestead non-residential education rates are not yet available due to the delayed approval of the VUHS budget.

POSTING LOCATIONS: Manager Hawley reported the Addison Northwest Supervisory District office is one of our posting locations for legal notices. They have moved to Kennedy Bros. recently so he advised he would like to remove that location and add a more convenient location for posting. He suggested Small City Market. Alderman Joe Klopfenstein moved to amend the posting locations as requested, seconded by Alderman Bertrand, with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:02 p.m. Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Senior Alderman Perry, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Vergennes City Clerk