

**CITY OF GILBERT**  
**MINUTES OF BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Kutsi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Kutsi, Councilors Pontinen, Skalko, Bol and Liimatta.

Staff Present: Police Chief Techar, Public Works Operations Director Lautigar & City Clerk Sakrison.

Mayor Kutsi led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The purpose of this continued budget work session is to work on the 2015 preliminary tax levy. This is a Budget WORK SESSION. No action can be taken at this meeting.

Chief Techar

- Reduce squad budget \$5,000 to \$35,000 and use equipment from old squad car.
- Reduce repairs & maintenance budget down \$2,000 to now be \$8,000.
- He hopes maintenance costs go down.
- It is gamble with fuel costs.
- They have nothing for Ore-Be-Gone cliffs enforcement.
- Once an old squad car sells that money could be put towards a new vehicle purchase. Selling cars at about 120,000 miles really helps with maintenance costs.
- Technology is going to continue to increase.
- He recapped the vandalism of the last weekend, some property has been recovered and would like to return from vehicle break-ins.
- Approximately \$7,000 - \$11,000 reduced total budget.
- Should they sell the 1985 Blazer? It has 200,000+ miles on it. It is stored in the arena in the summer and Biwabik in the winter.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar

- They could cut summer help to 2 youth, and if they do that there are things that won't get done. This could be a cost savings of \$10,400. This could be a trial for a year and see how it goes.
- Street painting, maybe skip a year, \$3,500 paint.
- If any budget left in motor fuels for 2015 designate for 2016 fuel. And could reduce budget to \$30,000 instead of \$40,000.
- 621 Loader tires – drop to \$6,000 in lieu of \$10,000
- Holiday Station doesn't have diesel.
- Painting crosswalk – Broadway & by the school.
- Discussed using Sentence to Serve crews. They have been used before at the cardboard shed. They could maybe do some clean-up or weed-whacking.
- Lawn mower for cemetery.
  - Office staff – use saved payroll & benefits to pay for mower
  - John Deere is \$17,000
  - Toro is \$15,000
  - Toro representative stated that it is less expensive to buy new off State bid rather than a used demo unit.

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- Professional Services could be reduced to \$5,000. This is for extra snowplowing services, etc.
- Machinery Rentals – used for when equipment breaks down. Could cost \$4,000/month to rent equipment.

Chief Techar

- Animal control – Mesabi Humane Society - \$5,000. Animal licenses need to be obtained by all that have animals, \$5 for spayed/neutered animals, \$10 for non-spayed/non-neutered animals. Animal license violation \$50, will be enforcing more strictly. This is part of the General Fund Budget. This could save \$1,600.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar

- Hopkins Park pea rock under swings is actually a necessity for safety reasons. This is a budget item of \$5,000.
  - \$17/yard have to haul from Seppi's north of Virginia; at least 200 yards needed and would need 2 rolls of landscape fabric (\$1,500/roll).
  - Does not recommend washed sand because it compacts.
  - Liimatta stated that if the City is spending \$4,000 on a building not in our town we can certainly spend money for our parks.
  - This would replace ½ the donation that the Centennial Committee made.
- Hockey boards are getting bad, corners are starting to bust away.
  - \$150,000 to replace.
  - The grants out there are requiring matching funds. Can we start putting some money away annually?
  - Who uses rinks? 4 years to 28 years and older, the schools, Youth Hockey, etc.
  - They have tried fixing and repairing, but should really look into replacing.
  - Pontinen asked about used boards. Lautigar stated they are very difficult to find.
  - The arena rink is not regulation size.
- Cemetery
  - \$40,000 capital outlay project. Ditching to control water flow; road 1<sup>st</sup> 2 sections, building new sections behind chapel.
  - Would want to demo mowers prior to buying zero-turn, designate money for 2016 purchase.
  - Bol suggested to postpone capital outlay project. Lautigar stated if it is postponed put at least \$10,000 towards it so that the City crew could do the digging and replace material for the road.
  - Chapel:
    - Mayor Kutsi noted that paint inside is an embarrassment.
    - Skalko noted that rock wall falling over at cemetery, what is to be done with that?
    - Chapel was painted over 30 years ago with lead paint. Would need to pressure wash entire inside.
    - Keith Shatava stated that the Chapel is no longer being used for its original purpose and that it doesn't make sense to put money into a building because there are many other venues that can be used.
    - Skalko stated that the next issue will be the roof.
    - Take \$20,000 out of capital outlay for cemetery.

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- \$37,000 to repair wall.
- Street Lights on Broadway
  - They could charge \$3.00/month per customer for street lights and that would raise \$170,000 some over 5 years.
  - LED lights are a 3 – 4 year payback.
  - Techar stated that Biwabik converted all their street lights to LED and they are looking at a 38 month payback.
- Fee schedule
  - Bol stated that this is a fairer way to distribute the cost, rather than raise taxes. Either way everyone would still pay.
  - Cemetery rates need to be increased. Probably 2 – 5%.
  - Planning & Zoning needs to look at fees and give a suggestion for any possible increases.
  - Electric rates are OK.
  - Liquor licenses will need to stay the same due to time.
  - Campground rates were raised last year, not sure about this next year.
  - A meeting will need to be set up to go over the fee schedule.

Al Olsen commended Chief Techar and Public Works Operations Director Lautigar on the work they have done. Al Olsen stated that the people want a 0% increase because Gilbert is such a high tax city. He wants Mayor Kutsi to make a speech regarding the tax levy, and answer all the questions that the people have.

Another person stated that they can't afford taxes any longer, and wanted to know what they get for their tax money.

A retiree said they can't pay more when social security is fixed and no increase coming.

Councilor Bol supports fees because then everyone pays the same.

Recommendation to the clerk to put the \$45,000 reduction in and see where things come out at.

Motion by Bol, second by Skalko to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Robert Kutsi, Mayor