

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Kutsi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Kutsi, Councilors Skalko, Pontinen, Bol and Liimatta, Chief of Police Techar, and Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison

The purpose of this continued budget work session is to work on the 2015 preliminary tax levy.

This preliminary tax levy needs to be set so that the budget can be calculated. The preliminary tax levy is not set in stone.

Even if the levy is set at 8%, there will still be a shortfall of \$157,000.

Discussed about vehicle & equipment maintenance and upkeep. Vehicles need to be replaced every so often. Councilor Pontinen stated that if they were properly maintained they would last longer.

Police Chief Techar gave a brief overview of the police department's budget and what the City of Gilbert and Biwabik are getting for their money.

- About \$44.24/hour is what is paid for 24 hour police service.
- Technology is the hard part to keep up with because it is changing so much from year to year.
- Discussed IT proposal for joint data connectivity for law enforcement – Eveleth, East Range PD & Gilbert.
- Talked about policing the beach. Mayor Kutsi stated this would be a good item to put in the budget that it would benefit all around.
- Councilor Pontinen asked about if it would be a possibility to not have 24 hour police coverage. Police Chief Techar stated it is not an option.
- Discussed the costs of a new police car. A new unequipped police car costs approximately \$22,000. It costs another approximately \$20,000 to equip the police car.

There is \$40,000 in the budget for the cemetery for capital improvements. This would be used to expand the cemetery because we are running out of room.

Healthcare is a big reason the budget will increase.

Councilor Pontinen stated that the City needs to cut costs everywhere they can. He talked about possibly cutting a person from the Public Works Department. (currently there are 6)

They discussed the Library and what that costs the City. Discussed that maybe the public could possibly use the school library. Because of safety concerns with the school it is not possible for the public to have access to the school.

Motion by Liimatta, second by Bol to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Debra Sakrison, Clerk/Treasurer

ATTEST:

Robert Kutsi, Mayor