MINUTES OF THE BEATRICE CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

A worksession of the Beatrice City Council was held on August 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the BPS Administration Meeting Room, 320 North 5th Street, for the purpose of holding a budget review.

1 – Roll Call: Present: Mayor Schuster, Councilmembers Catlin, Fetty, Langdale, Moore, Parde, Schmale
Absent: Councilmembers Tiemann, Carey,
Also present Board of Public Works Members: Vetrovsky, Eskra

Mayor Schuster announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

2 – Consent Agenda

a. Approve agenda as submitted.
b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting.
c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

Moved by Fetty, seconded by Langdale, that the items listed under the consent agenda be approved, accepted and/or ratified as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Catlin, Fetty, Langdale, Moore, Parde, Schmale
Nay: None Motion carried.

3 – Budget Worksession

a. Review of proposed BASWA budget

City Administrator Niedfeldt, and BASWA Manager, Mark Hyberger, presented the proposed FY2012 budget for the Beatrice Area Solid Waste Agency for review and discussion. A 10% increase in gate fees and services fees was proposed to retain cash balances.

Councilmember Carey arrived at 6:42 p.m.
Councilmember Tiemann arrived at 6:57 p.m.

b. Review of proposed Electric, Water, and WPC budgets

City Administrator Niedfeldt presented the proposed FY2012 budget for the Board of Public Works Electric, Water and WPC departments as recommended by the BPW Board. Board Members Don Vetrovsky and Dave Eskra and department superintendents Pat Feist, Steve Kelley and Jack Robbins were present to answer questions during the review. Recommended rate increases include a 2.5% electric rate increase due to a projected 6.5% wholesale rate increase; a 5.5% water rate increase to cover higher operating costs; and a 5% sewer rate increase to build cash reserves for future projects, including future plant improvements to meet new EPA regulations.

c. Review of proposed Street budget

City Administrator Niedfeldt and Street Superintendent Ron Baete presented the proposed FY2012 budget for the Street Fund. City Engineer, Rex Behrends, was also present to review the proposed capital projects, which includes a major 80% federally funded City-wide resurfacing project and a downtown alley resurfacing project.

d. Review of proposed General, Capital, and other funds budgets

eanne Caspers-Moon and Dale Kruse appeared to request $45,000 in funding for the rubber surfacing and concrete to help their committee complete the Prairie Playground.

Mayor Schuster and City Administrator Niedfeldt presented the proposed FY2012 budget for the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund for review and discussion. City department heads Tobias Tempelmeyer, Bruce Lang, Brian Daake, Mark Pethoud and Laureen Riedesel, were present to answer questions regarding their budget requests. The property tax request requirement proposes an overall 2 cent levy increase. An ambulance fee increase of 5% was recommended. Even with proposed revenue increases, with the loss of $230,000 in state aid, after funding operating and capital needs, the general fund cash flow is negative by $41,000. Efforts to hold the line on expenditure needs include a proposal to the unions for a 0% cost of living, and a reduction in the library budget of one full-time staff through retirement and reducing the hours open to 56 per week. Proposed capital projects requests and their funding sources were also reviewed.

4 – Adjournment

Moved by Fetty, seconded by Moore, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Roll Call: Yea: Carey, Fetty, Langdale, Moore, Parde, Schmale, Tiemann
Nay: Catlin

Motion carried.