

**Rochester City Council Workshop
May 28, 2019
Council Chambers
7:00 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Hutchinson
Councilor Keans
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Councilor Walker
Deputy Mayor Varney
Mayor McCarley

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, City Manager
Mark Sullivan, Deputy Finance Director
Roland Connors, Deputy Finance Director

COUNCILORS EXCUSED/ABSENT

Councilor Lachapelle

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:03PM. Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara took a silent roll call. All Councilors were present except for Councilor Lachapelle, who was excused.

2. Public Input

Mayor McCarley invited members of the public to come forward and address the Council. There was no discussion.

3. Discussion: Final Budget Adjustments

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to remove from the table the swift water rescue boat for the fire department (page 38 CIP book). Councilor Abbott seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** to remove the item from the table.

[FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT]

Mayor McCarley reminded Council that the motion made at the prior meeting had been to remove \$28,000 from the Fire Department CIP request for swift water rescue equipment, eliminating the line item entirely.

Councilor Walker stated that he thought it was an issue of “wants” as opposed to “needs.” He said that if the fire department needed a boat to replace the old aluminum boat they currently used, that request would make sense; but he felt the department did not need a \$28,000 boat. He felt that the department could come before Council with a less expensive boat request and be received more favorably.

Councilor Abbott felt that some of the objections may stem from calling the boat a “swift water” boat. He stated it was a rescue and recovery boat and it was primarily to have a safer more stable option less likely to tip than the current boat.

Councilor Keans requested a roll call on the motion. Mayor McCarley stated that a “yes” vote would be to exclude the \$28,000 swift water boat from the budget because it is currently included. The **MOTION FAILED** to exclude the swift water rescue boat by a 5 to 7 roll call with Councilors Hutchinson, Gates, Hamann, Walker and Lauterborn voting in favor and Councilors Bogan, Varney, Gray, Abbott, Torr, Keans and Mayor McCarley opposed.

[FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT]

Councilor Varney **MOVED** to add to the City Manager’s proposed budget a Recreation Department donation appropriation of \$5,000.00 which will be added to Recreation’s existing multi-year non-lapsing donations fund #6111. Further, \$2,500.00 is identified for general donations and \$2,500.00 is identified for camp scholarships. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. City Manager Cox clarified that this is a donations account for the Recreation Department to receive donations as an “in and out” account; any expenditures would be offset by donations and revenue so there would be no tax implications. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

[FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT]

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to include the Deputy Assessor position in the City Manager’s proposed budget. Councilor Bogan seconded the motion. Mayor McCarley suggested the motion may need a reconsideration motion from a Councilor who had prevailed on the previous vote. It was decided that with the process of budget adjustments, this method was not necessary.

Councilor Lauterborn stated that because this was a salary position which was excluded from the budget and would reoccur annually, the budget would need to be reduced to accommodate the \$90,000.00 requested for the position. Mayor McCarley stated that Council could take this approach of reducing other parts of the budget, although alternately there are some revenue estimates in the auto registration line and Host Community fee line which could be sources for this money.

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** for a roll call vote. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. Mayor McCarley stated that a "yes" vote would be to include the \$90,000.00 in the City Manager's Budget for the Deputy Assessor position. There was a discussion regarding how the position would be filled and who had the final decision on who to hire and whether it was a promotion from within or a new hire. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a 7 to 5 roll call vote with Councilors Keans, Walker, Abbott, Torr, Hamann, Gates and Mayor McCarley voting in favor and Councilors Lauterborn, Hutchinson, Gray, Bogan and Varney opposed.

[FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT]

Councilor Varney **MOVED** to **AMEND** the O&M Budget on Page 70 under General Overhead account #589025 "Health/Social Services." It was previously amended by adding \$25,000.00 for SOS Recovery. Councilor Varney moved to add an additional \$15,000.00 for the Homeless Center of Strafford County, bringing the line item to \$87,826.00. Councilor Keans seconded the motion.

Councilor Abbott inquired how the \$15,000.00 would be used. He stated that in the past when there was an agreement between the City and the shelter, it was used to offset the cost of sending residents to the shelter. Mayor McCarley stated that a portion of this money has always been used for transportation to and from the shelter which is still an issue. The previous funding agreement with the shelter gave Rochester's homeless residents first priority, but even without this agreement Rochester will still have residents using the facility. This \$15,000 can be used for general operations in whatever way the shelter sees fit.

Councilor Hutchinson stated that he would not support this motion due to the shelter not being a low-barrier facility and excluding certain populations from entry.

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** for a roll call vote. Councilor Bogan seconded the motion. The **MOTION FAILED** by a 3 to 9 roll call vote with Councilors Keans, Varney and Mayor McCarley voting in favor and Councilors Gates, Lauterborn, Walker, Gray, Abbott, Torr, Hamann, Bogan, and Hutchinson opposed.

Councilor Walker asked if there had been a dollar amount decided on for the

warming shelter if needed this upcoming year. Mayor McCarley indicated the Tri-City Mayors will be having a meeting with Emergency Management and the County Commissioners to discuss the plans for a guaranteed shelter for next year, which was one of the strategies outlined in the Task Force on Homelessness' Master Plan. Otherwise, there would likely be money in the General Fund Balance if the decision was made to support a one-time shelter, but it didn't seem necessary to add money into the budget at this stage.

Mayor McCarley referenced the request to add a new firefighter position to the operating budget. She said that due to vacancies and staff deployments, this position would have no impact on the operating budget this fiscal year besides the cost of equipment and gear. Councilor Keans said that if approved, this would be a permanent addition into the budget, therefore when deployed staff returned there would be an additional firefighter on staff. Mayor McCarley stated that the fire department feels that they are currently understaffed and wouldn't view this position as extraneous even after other staff returns from deployment.

[FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT]

Councilor Varney **MOVED** to add an additional firefighter by adding \$6,000 to the O&M Budget page 94, line item 573901 "Firefighting Gear." Councilor Bogan seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion explaining why the cost of gear was being approved but not the firefighter's salary. The salary is already accounted for in the budget, the position is budget neutral in the current fiscal year. The approval of the position was added in the wording of the motion, but there is no need to change the budget. The position will be permanent and will be included in the salary line item for the next fiscal year's budget for approval.

The **MOTION CARRIED** to add a new firefighter by an 8 to 4 roll call vote with Councilors Torr, Abbott, Varney, Hutchinson, Gray, Bogan, Gates and Mayor McCarley voting in favor and Councilors Walker, Hamann, Keans and Lauterborn opposed.

Mayor McCarley asked the finance department for a suggested change in the revenue calculations for host fees and car registrations or some other change in a revenue line item based on the adjustments made to the budget. Mr. Sullivan stated that the City is currently \$90,937.00 above the tax cap, but the School Department is still \$14,375.00 below the tax cap. He stated that if the surplus is added back to the school's O&M Budget, then the City would need \$90,937.00 in additional revenues. If the surplus does not go to the school, then the City will need an additional \$76,561.00 which is the combined amount that they City/School is currently above the tax cap. Mr. Sullivan stated that they are very

comfortable with using Host Community fees to satisfy this overage.

Councilor Lauterborn clarified that what the Council is doing is changing the revenue estimate from Host Community fees, no funds are being earmarked.

[FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT]

Councilor Varney **MOVED** to change General Overhead on page 5 of the O&M book, account 400000 "Host Community Fees" from \$2,000,000.00 to \$2,080,000.00. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. It was stated that this entire line item is just an estimate subject to change, therefore the amount does not need to be exact. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a majority voice vote.

4. Other

No discussion

5. Non-Public/Non-Meeting

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to enter into non-public session at 7:31 PM under RSA 91-A:3,II (a). Councilor Hutchinson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Hutchinson, Bogan, Gates, Varney, Hamann, Torr, Keans, Lauterborn, Gray, Walker, Abbott and Mayor McCarley all voting in favor.

5.1 Non-Public Session, Personnel, RSA 91-A:3,II (a)

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to exit the non-public session at 7:45 PM. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

6. Adjournment

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the City Council Workshop meeting at 7:45 PM. Councilor Hutchinson seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk