

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 3, 2014 @ 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, arrived late; Jacqueline Martin; Blair Briggs; and Reginald Tatum. Alderman Joseph Charles was also present.

ABSENT: None

Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin called the meeting to order. A moment of silent meditation was observed in memory of Alderman Julius Alsandor's mother-in law who passed away.

The following items were added to the Budget Committee Agenda at the start of the meeting:

Presentation by Mr. Clarence Watson regarding the amendment of the Parks & Recreation Budget in the amount of \$119,800.00 in line item 54521-7000 to reflect grant funds received. Presentation by Fire Chief Lee Cahanin regarding the amendment of the Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$12,000.00 for inspection of the reserve ladder truck and repair of the primer pump on another truck. Presentation by Police Chief Perry Gallow regarding the amendment of the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$55,729.49 to pay out unused annual leave requests to past employees. Presentation by Police Chief Perry Gallow regarding the amendment of the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$12,569.14 for repairs to air conditioning units throughout the Police Department including the jail.

1. *Presentation by Mr. Clarence Watson regarding the amendment of the Parks & Recreation Budget in the amount of \$119,800.00 in line item 54521-7000 to reflect grant funds received. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to forward to the full council for approval of amendment of the Parks & Recreation Budget in the amount of \$119,800.00 in line item 54521-7000 to reflect grant funds received.*
2. *Presentation by Fire Chief Lee Cahanin regarding the amendment of the Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$12,000.00 for inspection of the reserve ladder truck, and repair of the primer pump on another truck and add \$126.00 received from a grant to the Materials & Supplies line item (#2232). On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to forward to the full council for approval of amendment of the Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$12,000.00 for inspection of the reserve ladder truck, and repair of the primer pump on another truck and add the \$126.00 check received from National Volunteer Fire Council to the Materials & Supplies line item (#2232).*
3. *Presentation by Police Chief Perry Gallow regarding the amendment of the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$55,729.49 to pay out unused annual leave requests to past employees. Ms. Frank stated that there was a discrepancy in the dollar amount submitted by Chief Gallow based on the "Use It or Lose It" rule. Ms. Frank stated that there should only be four employees included in this request for a total of \$50,580.37. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded to Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to send to the full council for approval of amendment of the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$50,580.37.*

4. *Presentation by Police Chief Perry Gallow regarding the amendment of the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$12,569.14 for repairs to air conditioning units throughout the Police Department including the jail.* Chief Gallow stated that he does not have the money available in his budget for these repairs. Ms. Frank stated that he has approximately \$4,300.00 left in his Building Maintenance line item but pointed out that he may have other outstanding bills that have not been paid yet. Alderman Briggs suggested that they give Chief Gallow \$8,000.00 to cover this expense. Alderman Alsandor requested that Chief Gallow have the dollar amount of outstanding bills available for the Council meeting so that they can have the correct balance. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to send to the full council for approval for amendment of the Police Department Budget for repairs to air conditioning units throughout the Police Department including the jail, pending verification of the line item balance.

5. *DISCUSSION REGARDING SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, AS IT RELATES TO SALARY REDUCTIONS AND BENEFITS.* Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that he and some of the other aldermen went to a conference on yesterday. He and Alderman Briggs asked some of the mayors and council members about their salaries in relation to the size of the cities. One of the cities in particular was Gretna which has a population of approximately 17,000 and their council members make about \$17,000 and they are getting ready to give themselves a raise. Their mayor makes about \$70,000 and is also getting ready to get a raise. Port Allen, which has a population of 5,200, has a mayor's salary of \$85,000. Alderman Tatum also pointed out that because they voluntarily gave up their 2.5 percent cost of living raise, it comes up to \$4,368.06 per council members that they have given up. Alderman Briggs stated that after talking to many mayors and council members from all over the state, they pretty much said that if it was them, they wouldn't do it. He stated that initially when he was running for office and found out how much they made, he thought it was a little high; but after talking to everyone he has talked to, they have all said it is right in line with their population. The current proposed ordinance is asking for a 15 percent decrease but he feels that it should be less of a deduction—no more than a 5 percent decrease. Alderman Alsandor stated that had they not taken a cut, they would be making almost \$24,000 a year but he would be inclined to take a cut. Presently the council members, not including the Mayor pro-tem and the Alderman-at-large, make \$20,640.00 which includes their car allowance and monthly salary. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to forward to the full council for further discussion and approval to adopt an ordinance for nothing less than a 5 percent but nothing more than a 10 percent cut for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:
YEAS: Julius Alsandor, Blair Briggs, and Jacqueline Martin.
NAYS: Reginald Tatum.
ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The Budget Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.