

**ROLLA CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2007  
ROLLA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
901 NORTH ELM STREET  
6:00 P.M.**

**Presiding:** Mayor William S. Jenks, III

**Council Members in Attendance:** Terry Ruck, Monty Jordan, Donald Barklage, Stan Spadoni, Susan Eudaly, Gary W. Hicks, Judy Jepsen, Lou Magdits, Jim Williams, Richard Morris, Richard Sibley and Mark Walburg

**Department Directors in Attendance:** Solid Waste Manager Brady Wilson, Recreation Center Director Scott Caron, Community Development Director John Petersen, Public Works Director Steve Hargis, Fire Chief Bob Williams, Finance Director Steffanie Rogers, Parks and Recreation Director Ken Kwantes, and Police Chief Mark Kears

**Other City Officials in Attendance:** City Administrator John Butz, Municipal Judge William Hickle, Communications Coordinator Scott Grahl, and City Clerk Carol Daniels

Mayor William S. Jenks, III, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:08 p.m. and noted there are a couple of house-cleaning items the Council needs to address.

Mayor Jenks noted that some City officials have received a fair amount of feedback about the Eugene E. Northern Community Hall and its potential closing. He recommended that the Community Hall not be closed this year and that \$6,000 be included in the proposed budget. Additionally, Mayor Jenks said a letter should be sent to the users of the Community Hall stating that it may be necessary to charge them in order for the Community Hall to remain open.

Regarding the Municipal Court, Mayor Jenks said he feels the City needs to conduct a full assessment and consider all options. He further suggested that the Community Hall be eliminated as one of the options for the municipal court. After discussing the situation with Municipal Court Judge Hickle, Mayor Jenks asked City Administrator John Butz to report his findings to the Council within 90 days.

Additionally, Mayor Jenks asked the Council to consider placing \$10,000 in the budget for the PEG (public, governmental and educational) channel if the Council wishes to continue broadcasting the Council meetings.

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If the Council concurs with the addition of the \$6,000 for the Community Hall and the \$10,000 for the PEG channel, Mayor Jenks said the City Administrator's goal of attaining 25% in reserves would need to be reduced to 24.2%. The discussion that followed pertained to finding areas in the proposed budget to cut rather than reducing the reserves.

Municipal Court Judge William Hickle addressed the Council and said he is supportive of any ideas that anyone might have and he agrees with the concept that the justice system in Rolla should be operated as inexpensively as possible. Probably the ideal solution from the City's standpoint would be to have Municipal Court at the new Courthouse. Regarding court costs, Judge Hickle advised that these costs are set partially by ordinance and partially by State Statute. Judge Hickle addressed several questions and comments from the Council.

Police Chief Mark Kearsse told the Council that since last night's meeting he again reviewed the unfunded budget request in the Police Department for four additional full-time employees for the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) program and the drug interdiction program. He told the Council he has reduced his request from \$147,647.50 to \$87,990.00, which now includes a part-time records clerk, rather than a full-time position, a full-time VIPS coordinator instead of a part-time position, and a reduction in some of the office supplies. Although it is not his preference, Chief Kearsse added that he could get by with a part-time VIPS coordinator.

Mayor Jenks asked Councilmember Magdits to chair a committee to get something on the April ballot to help relieve the subsidy to the Park Department. He pointed out that the money that is transferred from the General Fund to the Park Fund could be used to fund the police programs. Mayor Jenks stressed that he is not advocating additional taxes, but a redistribution of the existing taxes, with voter approval. Councilmember Magdits responded that he would let Mayor Jenks know by tomorrow whether he would be willing to chair this committee.

City Administrator John Butz said if the Council is interested in budgeting Chief Kearsse's request, staff would submit a proposal at the next Council meeting pertaining to the manpower issue at the Police Department. Some of the discussion that followed pertained to revisiting this issue within six months.

A motion was made by Spadoni and seconded by Jordan to amend the reserve goal from 25% to 24.2% in order to fund the Community Hall and the PEG channel. A voice vote on the motion showed unanimous approval. Motion carried.

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Mr. Butz then focused on the preliminary Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He said he could not emphasize enough that this is just a gathering of information and ideas. The ultimate goal is to bring a draft plan to the Council in January following focus group discussions, ward meetings, and public hearings. The Council would then consider adoption of the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan in February. Mr. Butz said he is asking the Council to approve the concept of what the City is going to do over the next four months in moving toward this plan. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2007, when the Council would spend the evening analyzing the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan and prioritizing projects.

Mr. Butz continued by outlining alternative funding sources for the proposed CIP. One potential funding source is a local use sales tax, which is a tax on out of state purchases. This tax can be earmarked and targeted wherever the Council determines. He pointed out that it is difficult to estimate the amount of revenue from this source. Cities the size of Rolla might receive between \$175,000 - \$225,000. Another revenue source might be the municipal property tax and the business license tax. Many communities have a business license tax and with that comes a fee that is based on square footage, number of employees, or gross sales. Communities the size of Rolla are receiving anywhere from \$150,000 to \$200,000 on business license taxes. To implement any of these taxes would require voter approval.

Mr. Butz told the Council that over the next ten years the City would spend about \$23.5 million or \$2.3 million a year in capital improvement projects.

Regarding the bike path/sidewalk improvements, Mr. Butz explained that these are funded based on available grant funds.

Some discussion followed concerning soliciting businesses and organizations in Rolla to adopt a park. General discussion also followed concerning the City's parks.

Discussion was had concerning the status of the Public Services Park study. Mr. Butz told the Council the report is about 98% complete.

Discussion then followed concerning the Fire Department improvements and sales taxes.

Mr. Butz noted that upgrades would eventually be done to the central communications systems.

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Mr. Butz pointed out that some of the key elements of the Park Master Plan have been summarized in the draft CIP. Although staff continues to hear that the City spends money on these types of studies and does nothing with them, he said he could not emphasize enough how familiar staff is with the study. He pointed out, however, there are no available funds to do the Park Master Plan recommended improvements.

Regarding the Recreation Center, the current funding schedule has been included in the CIP. Mr. Butz reported that beyond the debt service, there is a surplus sales tax. In the year 2013, the balance for the Recreation Center will be \$7.4 million.

Mr. Butz said the City would like to highlight downtown Rolla as a Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) area. He told the Council that staff has been instigating contacts with contractors who would build the Wi-Fi system, at no cost to the City, using the City's infrastructure.

Mr. Butz said the City would also be a player in the University Tech Park, whether it is jointly in storm water work, infrastructure, or addressing storm water that flows through the area. The City will look for possible funding sources through its congressional delegation and the State of Missouri.

Mr. Butz concluded by stating the CIP contains \$110 million in improvements with about \$40 to \$50 million that needs to be eliminated.

The next effort on the CIP would be a workshop in October.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Carol Daniels.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR

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