

**Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**September 13th, 2011**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Members:** Ben Kessler, Chair, Richard Sharp, Rick Weber

**Roll Call:** All present.

Others Present: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Bruce Langner, Mark Masser, President McClelland, Jed Morison, Mike Price, Chief Rinehart and Gary Qualmann.

**Review of Minutes:** July 26th, 2011- Approved

**Presentation and/or Special Guests:** None

Mr. Kessler said he would like to discuss the impact of the estate losses to the City. Mr. Qualmann distributed a five year projection for the City. Mr. Qualmann said it effectively shows a 1% for general revenues. The wages reflects a zero percent increase for 2012 with a significant assumption regarding personnel. Mr. Kessler said there is an additional \$900,000 of reductions needed. President McClelland asked about the appropriations and the unspent appropriations. This number will reduce when the staff is reduced. Mr. Morison said he would like to take a look at these numbers with a long term scenario versus a one year scenario. He said he was very impressed with the future reduction of the negative figures.

President McClelland asked Mr. Morison whether or not he was aware of any future alternative means? Mr. Morison said there were discussions at the State level regarding other type of budget scenarios possible in mid-June with the Governor's office. He said it was based on a 12 ½% tax basis, no positive revenue.

Mr. Kessler said he met with the Mayor and Mr. Chodosh regarding cuts. The Mayor said it is still tied to negotiations, sick days, etc. He would like to have the cuts clarified and in writing by the next Council meeting. He said the personnel cuts and savings should be held in Executive Session.

Mayor Brennan said he did not know who to be able to save another million dollars from the budget. Mr. Qualmann said you have to get to a substantial place and get started. Mr. Kessler reiterated by the next Council meeting, he expects the cuts to be made perfectly clear in order to show the voters what we are doing on our end. Mr. Kessler said he won't vote for the 2012 budget until we get to those numbers. Mr. Qualmann said the \$900,000 (one half to be immediate changes) and the other half to be in 2012 for the others to properly understand.

Mr. Weber said in May or June, the deficit of \$400,000 was discussed. He said now we are one and half months away from the conservation, and is fully aware this is a necessary change. Mr. Weber said he is very upset the Administration has not taken the steps to reduce the staff and produce the savings we could have had at this point. He said this has been a highly disputed issue and now it is September 13<sup>th</sup> and we have shown no responsibility.

Mr. Sharp said he was expecting to come back with \$450,000 cut to show voters we have done our share. Mr. Kessler said instead, we have nothing to communicate when we need to make our message very clear.

Mr. Kessler made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 223.03 (a) of the Codified Ordinances. Mr. Sharp seconded the motion. Adjourned into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:** None

**Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**