

July 27, 2022

A special council meeting of the Chapman City Council was held Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at City Hall at 7:00 pm. Mayor Howard Battishill was present. Councilmembers James Bell, Tim Jury, Mary Monasmith, and Christy Loy were present. Also in attendance were City Administrator Bill Flanery, Police Chief Kevin Diercks, Golf Superintendent Austin Murphy, Director of Public Works Ed Wehrmeister, and Brittany Phillips.

#2 Discussion on 2023 Budget

City Administrator Bill Flanery thanked Brittany Phillips for her assistance with putting the 2023 budget together.

Mr. Flanery stated he had notified the County Clerk of the City's intention to exceed the revenue neutral rate. The revenue neutral rate (RNR) hearing and the budget hearing are scheduled for 6:45pm on 24 August 2022. A notice of the RNR and budget hearing will be sent to Dickinson County News Times on 28 July 2022 and the notice will also be published on the city's website. Mr. Flanery recommended in future years the budget workshop be held prior to the city's requirement to notify the county of the intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate. The proposed budget has been sent to the auditors and they have reviewed it. The auditors are comfortable with the proposed budget as presented. The revenue neutral rate from Dickinson County is 42.572 and the city's proposed rate is 47.765.

Councilmember Jury asked for clarification on the revenue neutral rate. Mr. Flanery explained that the revenue neutral rate established by the county is based on the amount of property taxes needed to fund the city. Councilmember Jury asked what the justification was for the rate increase. The increase is due to the rising costs of maintenance, equipment, fuel, and salaries. The rate also increased due to funding for the Parks and Recreation program that had not been fully funded in the past. The parks and recreation fund is now listed under the general fund and the proposed budget provides necessary funding for recreational programs. The swimming pool and recreational programs do not make money for the city but are necessary for residents' quality of life here in Chapman.

Police Chief Kevin Diercks stated the police department's budget went up mostly due to inflation. Maintenance and fuel for vehicles have gone up exponentially. The sheriff's office has tried to establish a school resource officer (SRO) program, but the single officer is responsible for all the schools in the county with the exception of Abilene. The SRO spends very little time in Chapman. Chapman and Herington police their own schools. Last year, the police department had a school related call almost every day. Chapman school has an interest in an SRO that stays in Chapman every day. The SRO's primary job would be in the three schools here in Chapman. The funding for the SRO would be a 50-50 split between the city and the school for the nine months that school is in session. The city would pay the full salary for the additional three months and would provide benefits. Funding for the SRO would be approximately \$50,000 for the city. Salary in the budget can be shifted from admin to the police department as the City Clerk and Administrator positions have been combined. Shifting the salary would not result in an increase in the mill levy.

Austin Murphy stated the golf course needs more golf carts. There have been several times that the golf course has run out of golf carts and lost business as a result. The golf course has 25 gas powered golf carts but need about five more. The city is already paying for a lease for golf carts. Revenue has increased by \$52,000 this year when compared to last year. Councilmember Jury stated the golf course should look at expanding the golf cart storage area in the near future as business continues to grow. The golf course has run out of golf carts on four Saturdays and during several tournaments.

There is about \$64,000 available this year in ARPA funds.

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The council agreed to modify the budget to allow for hiring a school resource officer.

#3 Approval to Publish Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) and Budget Hearing (24 August 2022)

Motion by Bell to publish the date of the revenue neutral rate hearing for 6:45pm on 24 August 2022 and the budget hearing for 7:00pm on 24 August 2022, 2nd by Jury, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#4 Adjournment

Motion by Bell to adjourn, 2nd by Jury, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

Howard Battishill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bill Flanery, City Clerk