

APPROVED
PUBLIC HEARING on the 2016-2017 BUDGET for the CITY of LIBBY
6:52pm SEPTEMBER 6TH 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Brent Teske @ 6:52 pm. In attendance were Mrs. Williams, Mr. Olsen, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Beach and City Clerk/Treasurer Audray McCollum.

Council Chair Teske opened the meeting to public comment for the FY Budget 2016-17. Mr. Teske stated that the Chair, Ms. Desch of the Budget Committee was not in attendance, so he asked Mrs. Williams about taking the questions.

Mrs. Williams mentioned the salaries had increased 1.6%, which also increased social security and other employee contributions. . She also stated the health insurance had increased by \$50.00 per employee and that power has gone up 2.3%. She said overall the budget had been decreased approximately 8-9%, which came to about \$126,614.

Mrs. Williams stated that one of the major issues concerning the budget was how to fund the volunteer fireman's relief fund. Mrs. Williams said she had worked out the numbers and it would take 18 1/2 mills to cover the payout. This would not increase the fund or bring it up, it would simply maintain. She mentioned that she had decreased the general fund 2.2% to raise that money. This would be around \$30,000 in addition to the 6 mills the city already assesses to fund this.

Mr. Teske asks if the City was able to cover the fund and Mrs. Williams said yes it's in the budget. Mrs. Williams said that was all the comments she had and that we could open it up to the public for comment.

Mr. Teske then opened it up to the public for comment. Arlen Mc Gill had a comment on the budget regarding some of the line items. He asked why there were items that had no history from previous years.

Mrs. Williams pointed out the Clerk had broken down each departments budget into categories so that the budget would be easier to understand and you could see where the money was being spent. This is why they don't have a history from the previous year.

Mr. Mc Gill made mention that there had to be some areas in the budget where the money had come from. The City Clerk Audray Mc Collum explained that the funds were previously grouped in to one category. She broke them down into individual ones so it would be easier to follow.

She also explained to Mr. Mc Gill that all the new categories with no history will have one next budget cycle. Mr. Mc Gill asks more question regarding the publications and the shipping costs.

Ms. Mc Collum explained that each department post ads for different things and that it come out of their own budgets. The shipping was from the WTP and the WWTP shipping their samples that they are required to do to the labs. Mr. Mc Gill talked about the street fund and the difference in the repair and maintenance from the previous years, and what was the big ticket items used for. Ms. Mc Collum explained the big items were the paving projects. They had their own number and came from the ED fund that was approved by the Council.

Mr. Mc Gill questioned whether the budget was ready to be approved.

Mr. Orr explained that he had attended hundreds of council meetings and seen different City Clerks. He said each clerk has a different way of doing the budget. He said he like the way the new clerk was doing the budget that it was more informative. He told the council that budget meetings are a big deal.

He told the Council that if they did not go over the budget item by item that this was a problem. Mr. Orr said that there is a dysfunction with one side of the table not having information and the other not sharing information. He told the council if they didn't understand the budget then they should not vote to approve.

He stated there was no legal requirement for them to pass the budget tonight. He said if you have to have meetings every night then to do it, it will be the most important vote they will make.

Gary Neff came to the podium and said he had about 4 pages of question but after hearing some of the information regarding the subcategories it eliminated some of his questions. He did bring up a couple of the line items of publicity and subscriptions. He asked if we had an actual number that was spent in FY-15-16. The Clerk explained that if you look at the line next to it that was the actual number for that year.

Mr. Neff asked about the amount of \$2300 spent on legal services. He thought that since the city has an attorney, he asked what the \$2300 was being spent on. The Clerk told Mr. Neff she could go back and look at her notes and let him know why that amount was put there.

Mr. Neff had some question regarding the names of some of the categories, and the Clerk explained that these were categories that were named by Black Mountain software. He also made mention of the engineering report and the repairs of \$15,000 on the fire hall roof. He felt that this was not brought before the council for approval and that they should take a look at it.

The Clerk told Mr. Neff that the \$15,000 for repair on the fire hall roof had been approved by the council and this was for the section of roof on the newer fire hall building. He also had a question about an item on the budget that was the Cities contribution for the 911 dispatch to the county.

Next he brought up the cemetery and parks. He said when you pass the budget that down the road the city should look at going to private contractors. He felt the budget is too high for this department. Mr. Neff talked about the tree board. He asks who the money was to go to. He then said the tree board was not a legitimate board because they have not been appointed by the council.

The next question he had was about the LADC and what SID was. The Clerk told him it was a loan the City took out to do the improvement on Mineral AVE. The tax payer with land adjacent to the improvement pay taxes on the improvement and this is what the SID is for (Special Improvement District). The money goes to pay back the loan.

He asked a question on the why the water department would have curb and sidewalk maintenance fund. The clerk explained that the water department fixes service lines to the property line and sometimes the sidewalk and curbs gets damaged and have to be repaired so it comes out of the water fund.

Mr. Hubbard spoke about the council not looking into the expenditures on the budget. He said we have already heard that the council has not attended committee meetings. He questioned whether or not the council knows how to vote yes or no on the budget. He asked if the council people ever looked into the budget looked at the expenditures or ever run a business.

Mr. Hubbard mention that the Clerk has done her job, but she is not voting on the budget, the council is. Members of the Council discussed the number of committee meetings they had before the vote.

Mr. Teske asks if anyone else had any comments. There was no more comments. Council Chair Teske closed the meeting @ 7:30 pm.

Brent Teske, Council President

Audray J. McCollum Clerk/Treasurer