

CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Budget Meeting

May 14, 2018

6:00 P.M.

5/14/2018 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Engler called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

3. RECORDING SECRETARY

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

4. ROLL CALL

The following Councilors were in attendance: Bruce Cheney, Mark Haynes, Bob Hamel, Andrew Hosmer

Mayor Engler noted four (4) Councilors are in attendance and a quorum has been established.

Henry Lipman arrived to the meeting at 6:28 PM.

5. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Myers, City Manager and Donna Woodaman, Finance Director

6. Department Presentations

(1) Water Department - Seth Nuttleman, Water Superintendent

Superintendent Seth Nuttleman reviewed the proposed budgets with the Council. Discussion included an update on drinking water, the Milfoil in Paugus Bay, and the department finishing up a three year grant from DES. About one million dollars in Capital Improvement Funds going towards North Main Street, the Long Bay tank, and Lakeside Avenue. Superintendent Nuttleman discussed the Capital budget and operating budget. Also discussed was the reduction in water use due to washers and toilets being more efficient. Superintendent Nuttleman discussed bonding or rate increases and maybe a combination of both to help compensate with the decrease in gallons sold. Councilor Hamel questioned the rate increases. City Manager Myers explained this was done about five years ago and was on the Sewer only. Councilor Hamel asked about cost containment to help with the budget. Superintendent Nuttleman explained that the State school is no longer on the City system and numbers are down as far as pumping. S. Nuttleman did explain that 100% of the projects are being coordinated with DPW. The price per cubic foot is \$1.80 per 100 cubic feet.

Mayor Engler noted for the record that the Laconia Water Department is a self sustaining enterprise fund.

(2) Assessing Department - Deb Derrick, Assessor

Assessor D. Derrick explained what the duties are of the assessing department. A handout was given to the Council to be included with the minutes. Assessor Deb Derrick reviewed the proposed budgets with the Council in which she stated her budget does not change much from year to year. It was also explained that the City assesses a 20% section of the City each year which has an outcome of 100% of the City having full revaluation every five (5) years, which has become a best practice for many communities because it is more efficient to complete and eliminates the spiking in values.

(3) Library - Randy Brough, Director and Jon Moriarty, Chair of Library Board of Trustees

Jon Moriarty reviewed the proposed budgets with the Council. Discussion included Gale Memorial Library, the improvement to the stairs at the library and HOOPLA, which is an online service that allows patrons that hold a Laconia Public Library card to instantly borrow free digital movies, music and e-books 24/7. There were 118,000 visits and 104,000 items were circulated. Discussion also included a change in long term staff to new staff which decreased the pay line and a decrease in postage costs by going green. Councilor Hamel asked what kind of investments are being made at the Gale Memorial Library. Randy Brough updated the Council with the types of programs being offered at the Gale Library.

City Manager Myers made mention that the Salary Line item will show different amounts due to vacancies, new hires, or retirees.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council and hearing no objection, Mayor Engler adjourned the meeting at 6:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

MINUTES OF THIS MEETING WERE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON MAY 29, 2018