



**Mount Vernon Public Safety Meeting
October 3, 2018 Minutes**

Attendees Present:

Mayor Boudreau

Councilmembers: Hudson, Beaton, Lindquist, Molenaar, Carías, and Brocksmith

Staff Members: Chief Brice, Chief Dodd, Doug Volesky, Isaac Huffman, Peter Donovan, and Kevin Rogerson

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Hulst called the Public Safety Committee to order at 6:00 pm. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilmember Hudson, seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion passed.

FIRE

EMS Update:

- Paramedic Interviews are being held this week over four days. 34 candidates applied, with one pulling out.
- Next week will be Chief's interviews which will include the Mayor.
- The Department is anticipating making conditional job offers during the last week of October, with final job offers by December 21st.
- The Contract for Services between the City and County will be coming forward in Study Session.

Donation Received

- The department received a donation from Fire House subs for \$25,000 for Rescue tools.

MAYOR

- Mayor provided council a proposed letter to the Friendship House for their retreat next week. She would like feedback from Council by Friday.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Unfunded mandates include homelessness, mental health, housing, public records act.

FINANCE

- Doug reviewed the preliminary budget with the following highlights:
 - The budget process: This was created by working with the various departments and establishing how they are meeting the mission and goals of Council and Mayor.
 - The 2019 preliminary budget is \$73.7 million which is an increase of \$13,309,584 or 22% over the 2018 budget. The biggest portion of this increase is due to the transfer of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance service to be provided by the City now.
 - The governmental operating budget is \$34,601,393 which is an increase of \$4,467,726 or 14.8%.
 - The budget would need to use \$300,000 of fund balance to balance this budget. The estimated fund balance at December 31, 2019 would be \$4,305,199.
- The Council's Goals have provided the outline for this budget:
 - Infrastructure – "Provide a high level of quality public facilities in a fiscally prudent manner." The following are projects that are fulfilling that goal:
 - Fire Station #1 bond
 - Preliminary design for Library project
 - General facilities repair/maintenance funding
 - College Way widening project
 - Health Neighborhoods – "Create an action plan to address the health of our neighborhoods, including public safety, public health, environment and appearance."
 - Continued work on homelessness issues
 - PT attorney support
 - Study issues: fireworks, plastic bag ban, stormwater incentives
 - Police deployment – data driven schedule

- Begin EMS
- Good Place for Investment – “Maintain a strong proactive position toward prosperity to promote a vibrant business community, retain & recruit a talented workforce, a positive civic image, and establish the City as a good place for investment.”
 - FTE Associate Planner
 - Affordable Housing Code work
 - COLAs
 - Waterfront development
 - ALFCO redevelopment begins – Opportunity Zone
- Operations – “Achieve efficiencies and professional services to meet our community’s expectations through innovative management & governance.”
 - Software support: SmartGov, Facility Dude, GovQA, ARCGIS, Spillman, Eclipse, Horizon, etc. – the maintenance fees for these increased for 2019 by \$212,587.
- The revenue projections for 2019 do not adequately meet the expenditure needs, this shortfall is \$300,000. This budget does presume that there will be a 2.7% growth in sales tax of \$200,000 from the 2018 budget. The budget has new full time staff positions for an Assistant Fire Chief, Nurse Educator (at Fire Dept.) Associate Planner and 15 paramedics. Other staff changes that were requested creates a part time City Attorney position.
- Mayor Boudreau presented some of the issues and considerations that will need to be addressed during this budget process.
 - One example of this is the prevailing wage that we are required to pay contract workers; in 2018 a landscape laborer was paid \$14.15 – the prevailing wage requirement for 2019 for this same position is \$36.64 per hour. The contracts that the City has with landscapers will have an \$88,000 increase in 2019.
 - The total salaries and benefits payable to employees in the General Fund is \$24,562,330 in 2019. The projected tax revenue – from all tax sources – is \$21,994,74. This is a \$2,567,589 shortfall that is currently being made up through fines, licenses and other miscellaneous revenues.
- Major considerations for revenue could include a property tax increase, some potential one time increases in sales tax associated with larger construction projects. Doug emphasized that fund balances and reserve goals should be met as well as reviewing and possible resetting rates for services. Council could ask the public to vote on a bond for a new Fire Station 1.
- Doug then reviewed the various department submissions highlighting their goals and accomplishments and pointing out that the operations and capital portions of these budgets are the areas that could be examined for possible changes. The labor portion of the 2019 budget is \$819,000 of the \$1.4 million increase in government operations

**The meeting was adjourned for a 35-minute break at 7:00 p.m.

**The meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Other:

The City has received a request from a prospective buyer of the First Baptist Church who is asking the City to consider allowing his customers and patients to park in the mostly City-owned lot located just south of the Church. Council asked for more details regarding the adjacent property.

Finance Continued:

A Property Tax discussion ensued. The current property tax levy is 2.43%, the Council sets the dollar amount that is requested and the calculation for that rate is based on the assessed value. The City has banked property tax capacity of \$767,648. The allowed 1% tax increase is \$83,698.

Budget discussions will continue at the October 10 and 17, 2018 Committee meetings. On October 24th the City will hold a public hearing on revenues and City Council will be asked to consider setting the 2019 property tax levy amount.

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by

Rebecca Wade