
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, HELD MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009, AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF CITY HALL.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bill Scharffe offered a prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Joyce Seals called the meeting to order. The following Councilpersons were present: Gregory Branch, Larry Coulouris, Bill Scharffe, Paul Virciglio, and Mayor Joyce Seals-5.

Absent: Councilpersons Daniel Fitzpatrick, Amanda Kitterman-Miller, Amos O'Neal and Andrew Wendt-4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Branch moved to waive the Council Rules or Order and place Announcements at the end of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Scharffe.

Adopted unanimously.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

There were no personal appearances.

REMARKS OF COUNCIL

Councilman Virciglio said the citizens deserve the City's streets and neighborhoods to be safe. He expressed the City's needs for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) allocation. Said it was determined through the JAG formula that Saginaw needed most of the funds.

(At 5:03 p.m. during Councilman Virciglio's comments, Councilmen O'Neal and Wendt arrived and took their seats.)

Councilman Wendt mentioned the JAG money had been split 50-50 for almost 10 years. Realizes the City has the highest crime rate in the County and should get the larger share but an agreement needs to be reached or the money could be lost and it would be the citizens who lose.

(At 5:08 p.m. during Councilman Wendt's comments, Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller arrived and took her seat.)

Councilman Branch compared numerous crime statistics between the City and the County, which clearly indicated City police officers bear the burden when responding to crime. He also gave statistics of the shares apportioned by JAG to other cities versus counties across the state. Said the Saginaw County Sheriff is the only sheriff arguing about the County's apportionment.

Councilman O'Neal said his colleagues had already expressed his concerns. Commended the City Manager and staff for their leadership in dealing with the issue.

Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller noted she supports the City Manager and staff and is behind them 100%. Spoke on the Great American Cleanup and mentioned some of the projects. Thanked all who supported or contributed. Announced the kickoff for Arson Watch, the SCENIC boarding event, Hoyt Park refurbishing, Tuscola Street Community

Garden dedication ceremony and Heritage Square Neighborhood plant sale.

Councilman Coulouris said he was very dissatisfied with the approach the Sheriff's Department was taking with the JAG grant. Did not think they were negotiating in good faith.

Councilman Scharffe agreed with what had been said on the JAG grant and said he has every confidence in the City Administration to resolve the issue. Complimented the City Manager on results of the evaluation. Commended the Saginaw African American Minority Business Association for the work they do. Announced formation of the Adams Boulevard Neighborhood Association.

Mayor Seals said she has faith in the City Manager's negotiation of the JAG grant. Mentioned Council's number one priority being crime. Said the City cannot continue to do things the way they've always been done. The City needs to think outside the box. Mentioned attending the Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission's 20th Annual All Area Arts Awards. Said all those nominated deserved the recognition. Noted that Ezekiel is working to reduce crime and trying to see what measures to take, including in-school suspensions. Said the efforts need to be countywide.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEMBERS

Mayoral Appointment.

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Seals, Councilman Virciglio moved for consideration of reappointing JoAnn Crary to the Hospital Finance Authority for a term of five years with a term to expire June 30, 2014, seconded by Councilman Branch.

Adopted unanimously.

Reports from other Boards, Commissions and Committees

Councilman Branch reported from the City Manager's Evaluation Committee. Said the summary resulted in a final score of 4.02 which is above average and the Committee believes it accurately reflects his role in the City and the tremendous strides the City has made under his leadership. The only low scores were in his communication style, which the Committee discussed with him.

Councilman Scharffe noted he contacted the Michigan Municipal League with a request for information on Michigan comparable cities with regard to wages and benefits for city managers. Will also seek information from communities Saginaw's size outside the state.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

Management Update

City Manager Darnell Earley briefly discussed FY09 budget concerns due to the recent cut in State Revenue Sharing, which resulted in a total shortfall of \$796,000 or 2% of the General Fund. Noted there had been a freeze on big-ticket purchases and on filling positions. Noted the FY09 budget would have to be amended at the time of approving the FY10 budget. Said all unexpended operational line items would be reconsidered and gave details on his plans.

The City Manager and Police Chief Gerald Cliff reviewed the JAG grant negotiations with Council and the plans on how the City intends to spend the allocation to

reduce crime in the City. The Chief noted there was very little policing in the City by the County Sheriff's Department and said there was a May 18th deadline.

Budget Presentations

City Manager Darnell Earley reviewed the FY2009-2010 budget for the City Manager's Office, City Council and City/County/School Liaison. He noted City Council budget would decrease by \$2,700; the City/County/School Liaison Committee would remain the same and the City Manager's budget showed a \$30,000 increase due to the Assistant to the City Manager/Budget Administrator position being taken from the Department of Fiscal Services. Yolanda Jones noted that Council's budget decreased due to the decrease in dues, telephone and I.S. charges.

Dennis Jordan, Employee Services Director, presented his departmental budgets for Employee Services, Workers Compensation and Police and Fire Pension Fund. He noted the department would be looking at reorganizing with retirement of the Labor Relations Administrator. Said he believed the most efficient and effective means would be for him to absorb most of that work. Mentioned the office would be hiring a part-time administrative position to handle the mundane work. This reflects a decrease of approximately \$35,000 overall. The Police and Fire Pension Fund increased approximately \$100,00 due to a projected increase in benefit payments to officers and firefighters. The Workers Compensation fund is up approximately \$50,000 because of medical cost payments.

Diane Herman, City Clerk, reviewed the City Clerk's Office and Elections budgets. The only increases reflected in the Clerk's budget were wages, benefits, maintenance agreements for equipment, ordinances updated through American Legal Publishing, postage and a slight increase for the Stationary Boiler Operators and Stationary Engineers board members for the extensive licensing work they perform. The Elections budget showed an overall decrease of approximately \$62,000 due to having only one local election during the next fiscal year.

City Attorney Tom Fancher presented his budget. Noted there was a decrease in the budget to reflect what the department is actually spending in outside legal fees. Said that in the event there would be an increase in expenses due to unforeseen litigation, the budget would have to be amended during the fiscal year.

Tim Morales, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Services, reviewed the budget for seven divisions of which he is responsible (Administration, Controller, Purchasing, Treasury, Assessor, Income Tax and Customer Accounting). He explained the overall responsibilities of the department, noted that the Treasury Division was eliminating one Office Assistant position and the reallocation of wages for the Assistant to the City Manager/Budget Administrator and Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Services. Said Plante & Moran, Inc. would continue to service as Controller and work on correcting the findings of the 2003 Audit. Reported overall expenses would be decreased by \$226,967, which included decreases in personnel, operating expenses and capital outlay. Said he was looking at all outstanding receivables and believes there are places where the City could do more in collection and he would address them as they come. He reviewed projects planned for the department, which includes seeking the Distinguished Budget Award, E-Filing for Income Tax, and the completion of residential appraisals by the Assessor's Office.

Jay Beelman, Information Services Director, presented budgets for SGTV and Information Services. Said SGTV (Saginaw Governmental Television) has one regular part-time employee who provides residents with up-to-date information on City services and broadcasts the Council meetings. Noted the meetings are now re-broadcast. Said the budget increased about \$11,000 due to healthcare costs, which are now properly budgeted in this department. Said he hoped to make some improvements to the projection system. Noted the revenue comes from the Charter Cable PEG fees. Provided Council with a chart showing expenses for the past 10 years. He gave a brief overview on the functions of the department and noted it was an internal service account where funds are generated by charging back to all departments their services per employees and computers. He noted there would be two retirements in FY2010, one Application Analyst and one Director, giving the department an opportunity to reorganize.

Odail Thorns, Development Director, reviewed the budgets for Building Inspections and Code Enforcement, Community Development Block Grant, Economic Development and Planning & Zoning. He noted that the general public has misconceptions about the stimulus package. The Zoning and Inspections budgets showed an increase of 14% due to a Riverfront demolition expenses appropriation. CDBG decreased by 7% because of a decrease in entitlement. Said his department would also be reviewed for reorganization and restructuring. He touched on some of the initiatives for the department which included the deconstruction program, City beautification through elimination of blight, neighborhood revitalization, five new SEDC loans, increasing revenues for non-owner occupied dwellings and identifying additional revenue sources.

Recommended Actions

Subject: Approval of Agreement with Friends of Hoyt Park

Manager's Recommendation: I recommend approval of the lease agreement with Friends of Hoyt Park for use of a portion of Hoyt Park. The agreement has been approved by me as to substance and by the City Attorney as to form.

Justification: The Friends of Hoyt Park was organized as a non-profit corporation to promote recreational events at Hoyt Park. The City has agreed to provide them access to the building and priority to the baseball diamonds for various events and tournaments. Friends of Hoyt Park has agreed to indemnify the City, provide insurance and pay for any additional utility cost.

The Agreement has a term of 99 years, but may be terminated by either party upon thirty days written notice.

Council Action: Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller moved that the recommendation from the City Manager be approved, seconded by Councilman O'Neal.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilpersons Branch, Coulouris, Kitterman-Miller, O'Neal, Scharffe, Wendt and Mayor Seals-7.

Nays: 0

Abstain: Councilman Virciglio-1.

Absent: Councilman Fitzpatrick-1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller, on behalf of the Keep Saginaw Beautiful Committee, accepted a proclamation read by Mayor Seals designating May 9-16, 2009 as Great American Cleanup Week in the City of Saginaw.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mayor Seals gave details for the Made in America Bus tour.

Councilman Scharffe gave the website address for the Adams Boulevard group for anyone Interested (www.adamsblvd.com).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:33 p.m., Councilman O'Neal moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Kitterman-Miller.

Adopted unanimously.

Diane M. Herman
City Clerk